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Attorney's Docket No.: 081862.P072C2

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
David A. Hughes et al.)
Application No. 08/825,492)
Filing Date: March 28, 1997)
For: SCHEME FOR MERGING PARTIALLY FILLED ATM CELLS)

Examiner: A. Hsu

Art Unit: 2738

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Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
ACCOMPANYING CONTINUED PROSECUTION APPLICATION

Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment accompanying a Continued Prosecution Application, filed in response to the Decision on Appeal dated August 27, 2002. Prior to considering this application on the merits, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 21, 22 and 26 and amend the remaining claims as follows:

- D/
1. 1. (Amended) A method for merging partially filled ATM cells, comprising the steps of:
 - 2 removing a first partially filled ATM cell from an ATM cell stream;
 - 3 removing a second partially filled ATM cell from the ATM cell stream; and
 - 4 merging the first partially filled ATM cell and the second partially filled ATM cell into a third ATM cell having information indicative of (i) a merging method used, and (ii) a padding method used for the first partially filled ATM cell.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on "Express Mail" mailing label number: EV151113812US Date of Deposit October 18, 2002

Jennifer L. Stewart

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

October 18, 2002

03/17/2004 MCORDON 00000001 08665492
Signature VUGLE5492
01 FC:1006 / 740.00 DA

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